

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Applicant asserts that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the Application is hereby requested

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-12 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application no. 10/458,331.

In response, Applicant intends to file a Terminal Disclaimer upon allowance of some or all of the claims of the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. App. No. 2004/0115431). Chen et al. discloses a disposable meltblown scrubbing product, formed primarily of polymeric fibers [Abstract] that are formed on a paper web. [¶ 0007, see also, ¶ 0024, ¶ 0119] While Chen et al. allows for the use of multi-ply paper [¶ 0137] and layers of additional materials, such as soap [¶ 173], it makes no mention of a carrier web in which at least one ply is a thermoplastic. Also, it makes no mention of a thermoplastic absorbent web.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite the limitation of a “thermoplastic non-woven partially bounded thermoplastic carrier web.” Applicant has also amended Claim 1 to recite the limitation of “an absorbent non-woven web including a plurality of philic thermoplastic fibers.” Applicant’s invention, by virtue of its combination of a thermoplastic carrier web, a thermoplastic

absorbent web and an abrasive finish, results in a wipe that has tactile characteristics of that are desirable in hand held scrubbing applications. For example, Applicant's wipe is soft and supple.

The limitations of the carrier web and the absorbent web being made of a thermoplastic are completely absent from Chen et al. The only use of a thermoplastic in Chen et al. is in the abrasive layer (item 32 in FIG. 6). The use of two webs made of thermoplastic fibers, one a carrier web and one an absorbent layer, gives Applicant's invention greater strength than a similar gauged paper web-based wipe, while maintaining similar absorbency. Thus, for the wipe of Chen et al. to have a similar strength as that of the present invention, it would require a greater paper thickness. While additional paper thickness would not be a significant issue with a mounted scrubbing tool application (as shown in Chen et al., FIG. 10), it would not provide the tactile characteristics desired in hand-held scrubbing applications. Applicant's invention, on the other hand, has the advantage of having strength and tactile characteristics that are superior to the scrubbing product disclosed in Chen et al.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that the amendments to Claim 1 have overcome this rejection and respectfully requests that Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom be allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. Applicant respectfully asserts that, given that Claim 2 takes the limitations of Claim 1, from which it depends, that Claim 2 is not obvious over Chen et al. for the reasons presented with respect to the §102 rejection.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reeder et

al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,468,931) in view of Chen et al. Reeder et al. discloses a non-woven fabric useful in absorbent products, such as a diaper liner. [Reeder, col. 1, l. 10-15] However, nowhere does Reeder et al. teach or suggest the use of a carded thermoplastic carrier web in association with an absorbent thermoplastic layer, as recited in amended Claim 1. A carrier web is a web that provides structural support and tear resistance to the wipe. This feature would not be necessary in diaper liners (and, for comfort reasons, may even be undesirable), which are applied to a plastic shell used to prevent leakage. However, a carrier web is necessary to support an absorbent layer in a wipe used for scrubbing.

The addition of Chen et al. to Reeder et al. would result in a material with a puffy absorbent web covered with a thick abrasive mat. It would not give rise to the claimed invention. Specifically, it would lack a thermoplastic carrier web and, thus, would lack the strength necessary for hand-held scrubbing applications.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that the amendments to Claim 1-9 have overcome this rejection and respectfully requests that Claim 1-9 be allowed.

Applicant asserts that the prior art made of record and not relied upon neither anticipates, nor renders obvious, the claimed invention.

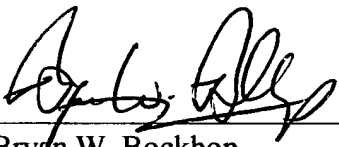
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CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the rejections have been overcome for the reasons recited above.
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that all remaining claims be allowed.

No addition fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested, to Deposit Account No. 503535.

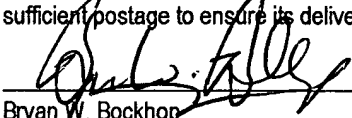
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being placed in the U.S. Mail on the date written below with sufficient postage to ensure its delivery to the Commissioner for Patents at the address listed above.	
 Bryan W. Bockhop	<u>9/16/2005</u> Date